



**Committee on  
Homeland Security Democrats  
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

<http://hsc-democrats.house.gov>

**For Immediate Release:**  
October 25, 2005

**Contact:** Jennifer Porter Gore  
Nadra Harrison  
202.226.2616

**House Homeland Security Committee Democratic Leaders  
Question the Administration about the Delayed National  
Infrastructure Protection Plan**

WASHINGTON--House Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), and Subcommittee Ranking Members Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Kendrick B. Meek (D-FL), and Jim Langevin (D-RI), have questioned the Department of Homeland Security about the Department's delay in completing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP).

During an October 20, 2005 hearing, "The London Bombings: Protecting Civilians Targets from Terrorist Attacks, Part II," Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, Robert Stephan told the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity that he was unhappy with the interim NIPP issued this past February. The Department was tasked to submit the NIPP to Congress in December 2004.

In a letter to Mr. Stephan, Reps. Thompson, Sanchez, Lofgren, Pascrell, Meek and Langevin requested a detailed explanation for the delay. The Members specifically questioned if the continued delay is related to the Department's use of private contractors to complete the plan. Members also requested a complete detail of how many taxpayer dollars have been wasted to pay the contractors who have failed to complete the task.

"Since early this year, we have expressed our concerns and frustrations with the Department's failure to properly protect our nation's critical infrastructure. These failures tell us that our communities remain at risk while the federal government continues to develop plans to plan."

"Your comment, however, raises additional concerns for those of us in Congress with oversight over the Department's activities. It is our understanding that the Department used contractors to prepare and support the development of this plan. Specifically, we understand that ICF Consulting may have been retained to work on the NIPP. If the Department paid contractors to do some or all of the work on the NIPP and it was not satisfactory and required redrafting and a delay in its release, then the American taxpayers deserve an accounting of how their dollars were misspent."

President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7 (HSPD-7) on December 17, 2003. Pursuant to this HSPD, the deadline for the plan was December 2004. According to the Department, the final NIPP won't be finished until at least February 2006. The plans

for each infrastructure sector, which are supposed to accompany the NIPP, won't be finished until late summer 2006.

A .pdf copy of the letter is attached.

###